



Resources for this Bible study are in order of importance:

The Bible -I will use ESV version a lot, NIV is good.

Luther's writings including but not limited to, Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation C 2017 CPH, Large Catechism, and other sermons, lectures, and writings in which he expounded on **Law and Gospel**.

C.F.W. Walther's ***The Proper Distinction between Law and Gospel***.

John T. Pless wrote a book ***Law and Gospel in the Church Today – Handling the Word of Truth*** which is the basis of our study. In his book, Pless condenses Walther's 25 theses into 13 topics and chapters of study which we will endeavor to use for 13 lessons over 4 months. Some chapters are 9 pages long others are just 5 pages. We will take off Easter Sunday from Bible study, but we will finish by the end of April, perhaps with a review on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, together we will combine our experience to expand our understanding of the great doctrine of Law and Gospel. We must constantly compare our experience, however, with the **Truth** of God's word.

Pless's book is available from me for \$17 a copy. Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation c 2017 by CPH is also available from me for \$16. Bring your Bibles each week and read as you have time from other sources in preparations for each Sunday. Read first from Pless's book as we prepare each of the 13 weekly topics, but if you have more time read from Walther, Luther and the Bible.

January 14<sup>th</sup> Chapter 1 – Two Different Doctrines

Romans 3:19-28 - What is the scope and purpose of the law according to St Paul? And the gospel's scope and purpose?

Someone who brought Luther's Small Catechism turn to page 49 and read question 10 and the answer aloud. Read 2 Tim. 2:15; How are the Scriptures misunderstood without the proper distinction of **Law and Gospel**? How does Luther's life as a monk show a misunderstanding of **Law and Gospel**?

Continue reading from the catechism question 11 and following through the top of page 50.

What is the effect of the **Law**? How does that make you feel?

What is the effect of the **Gospel**? How does that make you feel?

Racial, religious, and life style tolerance has become the chief virtue of the 2000's and 2010's. How does uncritical tolerance confuse ***Law and Gospel?***

Read Matt. 16-22. How did the rich young man misuse the Law? How did Jesus use the Law to expose this man's sin?

Read Romans 7:6-24. How does this passage illustrate the scope and power of the Law?

Next week please read Chapter two (Pp 19-25) of the book ***Law and Gospel in the Church Today- Handling the Word of Truth***. We will learn it is not enough to discern ***Law and Gospel*** but to apply it to our life as well. Consider Christian parenting. Many parents don't understand the role of Law and Gospel in admonishing and comforting children. Each chapter has questions at the end for review. Be able to answer these; it will prepare you for class.